

18. (Three Times Amended) A self-adhering surface covering comprising:

a substrate;

a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer disposed on the substrate and having an adhesive surface located distally from the substrate, the adhesive layer comprising an adhesive, the adhesive being substantially non-stringing; and

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a barrier layer disposed substantially on and covering between about 1% and about 10% of the adhesive surface, wherein the barrier layer comprises a plurality of particles, the particles being substantially non-adhesive, wherein the barrier layer exhibits a crush resistance of at least about 10 psi, and wherein the particles are selected from the group consisting of solid particles, porous particles and combinations thereof.

55. (Amended) The surface covering of claim 18, wherein the non-adhesive particles

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are selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, barium carbonate, calcium sulfate, barium sulfate, aluminum sulfate, molybdenum disulfide, titanium oxide, aluminum hydroxide, alumina, silica, magnesium oxide, calcium oxide, calcium hydroxide, ferrous oxide, ferric oxide, cured rubbers, ebonite, resins, and combinations thereof.

56. (NEW) The surface covering of claim 18, wherein the substrate is substantially rigid.

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57. (NEW) The surface covering of claim 18, wherein the barrier layer further comprises a second plurality of particles, the particles of the second plurality being substantially non-adhesive hollow particles.